

Message Text

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12

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SUBJECT: STUDENT SUPPORT FOR BELEAGUED PROFESSORS AT PHILOSOPHICAL
FACULTY, BELGRADE UNIVERSITY

REF: BELGRADE A-714

1. SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS IN PAST FEW DAYS REVEAL THAT STUDENTS AT BELGRADE UNIVERSITY PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY HAVE SUPPORTED GROUP OF EIGHT PROFESSORS AND ASSISTANTS FACING EXPLUSION FROM THAT FACULTY'S LC ORGANIZATION FOR "LIBERALISM" AND FACTIONALISM (REFAIR) BY OPPOSING OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN FACULTY'S AFFAIRS AND BY SHUTTING DOWN CLASSES AT FACULTY. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST REVEALING INFORMATION WAS CONTAINED IN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED DEC. 25 BY MEETING OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE OF STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (WITH CITY AND UNIVERSITY PARTY REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING). COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNED PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY'S BRANCH ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR HAVING RALLIED GROUP OF FACULTY STUDENTS AROUND IT IN OPPOSING (A) LC UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE'S DEMANDS FOR EXPLUSION OF EIGHT ACADEMICS FROM LC BODY IN PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY AND (B) REWRITING CRITERIA FOR PROFESSIONAL TENURE ON BASIS OF NEW SELF-MANAGING AGREEMENT (REFAIR). BRANCH ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS ASSOCIATION REPORTED TO HAVE DECLARED "STATE OF EMERGENCY" AT PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY AND TO HAVE PUT STOP TO LECTURES AT FACULTY. PRESS STORY ON COMMUNIQUE QUOTED
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ONE BELGRADE CITY PARTY FUNCTIONARY AS SAYING "EVENT AT PHILOSOPHICAL

FACULTY A GREAT NUMBER OF PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS HAVE POSITIVE COMMITMENTS" TO SELFMANAGEMENT (I.E., WILL RESPOND TO PARTY DIRECTION), WHICH ONLY INDICATES JUST HOW WIDESPREAD DISAFFECTION IS AT THAT FACULTY.

3. PARTY ORGANIZATIONS OF FACULTIES OF LAW, MEDICINE AND AGRICULTURE AT BELGRADE UNIVERSITY MET SEPARATELY DEC. 27 TO DENOUNCE "MANIPULATION" OF PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY STUDNETS BY THE GROUP OF PROFESSORS UNDER ATTACK AND BY "LIKE-MINDED" STUDENTS WHO HAD RALLIED AROUND PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY'S BRANCH OF ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS. MEETINGS ALSO SAID THAT /WELL-KNOWN GROUP OF PROFESSORS" AT PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY WAS UNFIT TO "PARTICIPATE IN IDEOLOGICAL-EDUCATIONAL PROCESS" AND SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM FACULTY.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF ORGANIZED STUDENT ACTIVISM ON BEHALF OF THE EIGHT PROFESSORS. THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT PARTY'S RIDING OVER STUDENT OPPOSITION AT PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, BUT DISRUPTION CREATED IN PROCESS OF REMOVING THE EIGHT MAY PROVE TO BE SERIOUS.

JOHNSON

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